

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 11169 01 OF 04 171533Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 L-03
ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 PA-01 INR-10 /074 W
-----120079 171550Z /46

O R 171524Z JUN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9497
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
LIVE OAK SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BONN 11169

USELMLO FOR US EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: ALLIED RESPONSE TO GDR TURNBACKS ON THE
TRANSIT ROUTES

REF: (A) BONN 11155 (NOTAL), (B) BONN 10771,
(C) 76 BONN 15762 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS,
(D) 77 BONN 10025 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GDR YESTERDAY REFUSED TO ALLOW AT
LEAST THREE BUSES OF YOUNG CDU SUPPORTERS TO USE THE
TRANSIT ROUTES TO WEST BERLIN, WHERE THE TRAVELERS
HAD INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
17TH OF JUNE HOLIDAY. THE FRG VIEWS THE EVENTS, SIMILAR
TO GDR TURNBACKS OF BUSES DURING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HOLIDAY OF THE BERLIN WALL IN 1976, AS A CLEAR VIOLATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 11169 01 OF 04 171533Z

OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. IT WILL PROTEST TODAY TO THE
GDR ABOUT THE TURNBACKS.

MEANWHILE, THE FRG HAS ASKED THAT THE ALLIES MAKE A
PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE
FRG DOES NOT VIEW THE SITUATION AS DRAMATIC, BUT BELIEVES
A CLEAR PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE ALLIES IS POLITICALLY

NECESSARY. THE FRG FEELS THAT THERE WOULD THEN BE SOME TIME AFTER AN ALLIED STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE ALLIES SHOULD PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS.

THE BONN GROUP HAS AGREED AD REF THAT THE CONTINGENCY ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTARY PRESS GUIDANCE AGREED PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S OBSERVANCE OF THE 17TH OF JUNE SHOULD BE USED, IN A SLIGHTLY REVISED FORM, AS THE ALLIED RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S EVENTS. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 15. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BONN GROUP MET THE MORNING OF JUNE 17 TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE TO THE TURNBACKS THE DAY BEFORE BY THE GDR OF SEVERAL BUSES CARRYING MEMBERS OF THE CDU/CSU YOUTH AFFILIATE "JUNGE UNION" AT THE BORDER-CROSSING POINTS OF HELMSTEDT AND LAUENBURG (REF A). THE "JUNGE UNION" MEMBERS HAD INTENDED TO TRAVEL TO WEST BERLIN ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN RALLIES AND EVENTS COMMEMORATING THE 17TH OF JUNE, THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1953 UPRISING OF WORKERS IN EAST BERLIN (REF B).

2. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL), THREE BUSES HAD BEEN TURNED BACK. TWO BUSES WERE TURNED BACK AT HELMSTEDT AT ABOUT 14:20 AND 16:00 HOURS. ONE BUS WAS CARRYING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 11169 01 OF 04 171533Z

37 PASSENGERS; THE OTHER, 40. ANOTHER BUS, CARRYING 35 PASSENGERS, WAS TURNED BACK AT THE LAUENBURG CHECK-POINT.

3. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE TURNBACK OF THE FIRST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 11169 02 OF 04 171541Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 L-03

ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 PA-01 INR-10 /074 W

-----120101 171551Z /46

O R 171524Z JUN 78 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9498

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

LIVE OAK SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BONN 11169

USELMO FOR US EYES ONLY

BUS AT HELMSTEDT WAS MADE BY A GDR BORDER OFFICIAL WHO JUSTIFIED HIS ACTION BY SAYING THAT THE PASSENGERS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROVOCATIVE EVENT ("HETZVERANSTALTUNG"). HE HAD SAID THEY WERE TOO YOUNG TO BE POLITICALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND THAT THEY WERE BEING MISUSED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE HAD CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR I.D. CARDS, IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT SEVERAL OF THEM HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE "STERNFAHRT" MOTORCADE TO BERLIN ON AUGUST 13, 1976.

4. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT AFTER THE FIRST BUS WAS TURNED BACK, HERR WULF, HEAD OF THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION, SENT THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 11169 02 OF 04 171541Z

TELEGRAM TO THE GDR: "IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT A BUS TRAVELING TO BERLIN WAS TURNED BACK FOR NO REASON. THE GDR IS REQUESTED TO ALLOW THE BUS TO PASS. IN ADDITION, WE REQUEST THAT WE BE INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR THE TURNBACK."

5. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 16 THE CHANCELLERY HAD AUTHORIZED THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE TO USE THE FOLLOWING TEXT IN REPLY TO PRESS INQUIRIES.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GDR TODAY TURNED BACK SEVERAL

BUSES WITH TRAVELERS HEADED FOR BERLIN (WEST). THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE THESE TURNBACKS CAREFULLY AND INITIATE ALL NECESSARY STEPS. IT HAS ASKED THE GDR FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TURNBACKS THROUGH THE HEAD OF THE TRANSIT DELEGATION, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AREA. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS.

END TEXT.

VON BRAUNMUEHL ADDED THAT THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE HAD ALSO BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT THE FRG WAS CONSULTING WITH THE ALLIES.

6. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE PRESS "JUNGE UNION" SUPPORTERS WERE TRAVELING TO BERLIN USING PRIVATE CARS AND 25 BUSES. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THAT WAS THE CORRECT FIGURE FOR THE NUMBER OF BUSES. IN ANY EVENT, AS OF YESTERDAY AT 19:30 HOURS ONLY FOUR BUSES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 11169 02 OF 04 171541Z

OF "JUNGE UNION" SUPPORTERS WERE REPORTED AS HAVING ARRIVED IN WEST BERLIN.

7. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THE BUSES HAD NOT TRAVELED IN A CONVOY TO THE CROSSING POINT. HE NOTED THAT THE THREE BUSES HAD BEEN TURNED BACK AT DIFFERENT CHECKPOINTS OR DIFFERENT TIMES. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY POSTERS OR OTHER MATERIAL ON THE OUTSIDE OR INSIDE OF THE BUSES. (COMMENT: THIS WAS THE BASIS OF THE GDR PRETEXT FOR THE SIMILAR TURNBACKS IN AUGUST 1976. END COMMENT)

8. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THE NEXT FRG STEP WOULD BE A DEMARCHE BY CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL BRAEUTIGAM TO A MEMBER OF THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN BONN.

9. AS FOR THE ALLIED RESPONSE, VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID HE FELT THE PRESENT CASE WAS AN EVEN CLEARER VIOLATION OF THE QA THAN THE TURNBACKS IN 1976. AT THAT TIME, A FORMAL "STERNFAHRT" HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN, THIS TIME THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS HAD ARRANGED THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION. SINCE THE ALLIES HAD REACTED PUBLICLY IN 1976, A PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD BE POLITICALLY NECESSARY THIS TIME. HE SAID THE FRG PROBABLY WOULD ALSO ASK THE ALLIES TO MAKE A PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS, BUT THAT WAS NOT AS URGENT AS A PUBLIC RESPONSE.

10. THE BRITISH REP (EATON) AND THE FRENCH REP (GAUSSOT) SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET

INSTRUCTIONS ON A PRESS STATEMENT OR PRESS GUIDANCE
BEFORE MONDAY MORNING. BEFORE RECEIVING APPROVAL FROM
CAPITALS, THE ONLY ALLIED RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES
THEY WOULD AGREE ON WAS THE FOLLOWING: "WE UNDERSTAND
SOME BUSES WERE TURNED BACK BY GDR AUTHORITIES. WE
ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE FRG AND ARE EXAMINING THE
MATTER." THE FRENCH REP (GAUSSOT) UNDERTOOK TO INFORM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BONN 11169 02 OF 04 171541Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 11169 03 OF 04 171540Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 L-03
ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 PA-01 INR-10 /074 W
-----120099 171551Z /46

O R 171524Z JUN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9499
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
LIVE OAK SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 BONN 11169

HIS MISSION IN BERLIN, WHICH IS IN THE CHAIR THIS
MONTH, OF THIS AGREED RESPONSE.

11. THE BONN GROUP AGREED AD REF TO USE THE PRESS
STATEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH
WERE DEVELOPED BY THE BONN GROUP ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS

PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S 17TH OF JUNE (REF D). SOME MINOR CHANGES WERE MADE IN EACH TO REFLECT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SITUATION CONTEMPLATED LAST YEAR AND THE EVENTS OF THIS YEAR.

ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT

THE ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT (REF D, PARA 6), AS REVISED AT TODAY'S MEETING, READS AS FOLLOWS:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 11169 03 OF 04 171540Z

BEGIN TEXT

THE EMBASSIES OF FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES IN BONN HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE WERE PROLONGED DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF CIVILIAN TRAFFIC ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN ON JUNE 16 AND THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVILIAN TRAVELLERS WERE REFUSED PERMISSION TO USE THE TRANSIT ROUTES. THE ALLIES, LIKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THIS OBSTRUCTION TO UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO BERLIN. THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT AN EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENTS FROM THE GDR.

IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN BERLIN ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, BY FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SOVIET UNION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION DECLARED THAT TRANSIT TRAFFIC THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF THE GDR OF CIVILIAN PERSONS AND GOODS BETWEEN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND THE FRG WILL BE UNIMPEDED. DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THIS CIVILIAN TRAFFIC WERE AGREED IN THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE QA AND WAS BROUGHT INTO FORCE TOGETHER WITH THE QA BY THE FINAL QUADRIPARTITE PROTOCOL OF JUNE 3, 1972.

THE ALLIES ARE STAYING IN CONTACT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER STEPS ARE WARRANTED.

END TEXT

SUPPLEMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 11169 03 OF 04 171540Z

THE SUPPLEMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE IS THE SAME AS IN REF D,
PARA 7, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO CHANGES.

A. SINCE THE EMBASSIES IN BONN WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE
TO USE THE PRESS GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER
RECEIVING APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS, I.E. POSSIBLY EVEN
BEFORE THE ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT IS RELEASED, IT WAS
AGREED TO CHANGE QUESTION NO. 1 TO READ: "DO THE ALLIES
CONSIDER THERE WAS A VIOLATION OF THE QA?"

B. SINCE THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT CLAIMED THIS YEAR THAT
THE 17TH OF JUNE OBSERVANCE JUSTIFIED THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 11169 04 OF 04 171543Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 L-03
ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 PA-01 INR-10 /074 W
-----120103 171551Z /46

O R 171524Z JUN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9500
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
LIVE OAK SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 BONN 11169

REFUSAL OF TRANSIT TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS
IN BERLIN, IT WAS AGREED TO PREFACE ANSWER NO. 4 WITH
THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE
SOVIET UNION HAS MADE SUCH A CLAIM. NEVERTHELESS...."
(CONTINUE WITH THE ORIGINAL FIRST SENTENCE OF ANSWER

NO. 4.)

12. IT WAS AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO GET APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS FOR THE PRESS STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO RELEASE THEM IN TIME TO PUBLICIZE THE ALLIED POSITION IN THE GERMAN EVENING NEWS BROADCASTS OF JUNE 19.

13. COMMENT: THE PRESS HAS NOT PLAYED UP THE TURNBACKS, CONTRARY TO WHAT ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALSO DOES NOT VIEW THE EVENTS AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 11169 04 OF 04 171543Z

DRAMATIC, BUT BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS SERIOUS AND REQUIRE A FIRM PUBLIC RESPONSE FROM THE ALLIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

14. AFTER THE ALLIED RESPONSE HAS BEEN MADE, THE BONN GROUP WILL HAVE ENOUGH LEASE ON TIME TO LEARN ALL THE DETAILS OF THE EVENTS OF JUNE 16 AND TO CONSIDER IF A FURTHER ALLIED RESPONSE, I.E. A PROTEST, IS WARRANTED.

15. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL ON AN URGENT BASIS OF THE ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE IN REF D, AS AMENDED IN PARA 11 SUPRA.
MEEHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS, BORDER INCIDENTS, YOUTH GROUPS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN11169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780254-0178
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780648/aaaabpbd.tel
Line Count: 416
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc18c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BONN 11155, 78 BONN 10771, 76 BONN 15762, 77 BONN 10025
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2309746
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLIED RESPONSE TO GDR TURNBACKS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GC, UR, BQG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc18c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014